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**[0:00:23]**

BRUCE FETZER: Well hi, Tom. We are here today because we are going to be filming an oral history. You have mapped out a progression of topics for us to go through. And just by way of introduction, I'm Bruce Fetzer here with Tom Beaver, on December 10th, 2017, and the topic that we'd like to start with today is hearing a little bit about your life story, you know, your story and your search, right up until the point that you met John, and meeting John.

So tell me a little about who you are and what your search is.

**[0:00:59]**

TOM BEAVER: Sure, Bruce. I don't think—I don't know that I've ever actually told the story before, not all of it, I'm, uh, kind of a shy guy, so—

BRUCE FETZER: Mm-hmm.

TOM BEAVER: —but I'm happy to do it.

Um, my—my—my whole life—uh, I met John when I was 34, moved in with him when I was 35.

[Technical break.]

**[0:05:30]**

BRUCE FETZER: Well, Tom, we're here today to actually go through and record an oral history, for history purposes, and just by way of introduction I'm Bruce Fetzer here with Tom Beaver on December 10th—

[Technical break.]

**[0:07:01]**

BRUCE FETZER: Well, Tom, we are here to record your oral history, and you've mapped out a series of topics for us to go through. Just by way of introduction, I'm Bruce Fetzer, recording an oral history with Tom Beaver, on December 10th, 2017.

So the first topic that you mapped out for us is to go through a little bit of about your story. You know, what was your spiritual path leading up to, and then meeting John Fetzer, and then we'll go into that whole element of the relationship. But tell us a little bit about your story.

**[0:07:37]**

TOM BEAVER: Sure. Um, I think it's pertinent because, um, uh, this—my journey is what, uh, got me into John's house and it's what got me hired to do it, so, um, to live with him.

I met John when I was, um, 35, and, uh, met Jim Gordon the year before, when I was 34. And—and now that seems young. It seems like it's a very young age to me now, that I'm 66. I had spent—I had a long history of spiritual journey of my—of my own, uh, that goes back to my earliest memories, really, and, uh, that whole thing is what prepared me to, I guess to have this very kind of, uh, unique and kind of strange role with John, and ever since, really, ever since with the Fetzer Trust and all that.

So I think it's pertinent to lay it out a little bit. Um, uh, I was born in 1951, and, um, um, I would say my mother, uh, had psychic abilities, uh, but she was a, um, because of her life experiences she was sort of a fearful person, uh, a strong person but a fearful person, kind of a hysterical type of person. Uh, she was the opposite of a calm presence.

**[0:09:10]**

And, um, so I would, um, I was kind of a different little guy, uh, always, because, um, on the one hand, uh, uh, I was a good athlete. I was actually the best baseball player in town, of my age, for three years. Uh, home run hitter, pitcher, uh, kids league era, you know.

BRUCE FETZER: Mm-hmm.

TOM BEAVER: I won the All-Star Game as a winning pitcher in the All-Star Game one year and the starting pitcher the next year, so I was a good athlete. And, um, I was a pudgy little—I was a pudgy kid, you know, like I am now, but I was like the fastest—second-fastest kid in my grade, so just—it was, uh, just different. I was a different kid.

I had asthma, um, and allergies, kind of severely in the summer, particularly, so, uh, uh, that was—so I had—I always had kind of a weight issue and I wasn't real active. Um, I spent a lot of time, uh, sitting in my bedroom in front of an air conditioner in the summer.

**[0:10:24]**

And then I had music ability. My mother was a wonderful singer and my father's father was a Vaudeville violinist, played in Vaudeville orchestras. My mother's father was an accordionist, I guess, but he died in the Swine Flu epidemic, uh, the same thing that almost took John. My mother was two when her father died.

BRUCE FETZER: Wow.

**[0:10:53]**

TOM BEAVER: So, um, I was a pianist and a violinist, and my mother was always, uh, convinced—she was always determined that either my brother or I would be a concert pianist, and, uh, that never happened. But, um, we were sort of the best, uh, pianists—classical pianists on the west side of the state. My brother is a couple of years older than me, and then I was after him. And, um, I won this competition, uh, when I was in ninth grade, uh, with a, um, symphony orchestra on the west side of the state. That was really open only to high school seniors, but my, uh, piano teacher got me in, and, um, I won the competition. Played several concerts. Played, uh, once with an orchestra, with the symphony.

**[0:11:48]**

And, uh, and, um, I had stage fright, you know, pretty bad, so what I learned from that is—I'm kind of a shy guy and always have been, kind of a low-key, shy person, so performing like that was not for me, not by myself like that. So, um, but, um, music was kind of easy to me and still a big part of my life.

BRUCE FETZER: Mm-hmm.

TOM BEAVER: I love classical music. And I played the violin. Uh, never took a lesson on the violin. It was just a hobby. I picked it up. It seemed easy to me, compared to the piano. And, uh, so, really, by the last four years of my high school years, I was considered the second-best violinist on the west side of the state.

**[0:12:39]**

BRUCE FETZER: So that's amazing. Exceptional in sports as well as music.

TOM BEAVER: Well, yeah. But—

BRUCE FETZER: How did that lead you into your spiritual path, because you went from traditional to non-traditional?

**[0:12:52]**

TOM BEAVER: Well, I was always kind of non-traditional. And then, uh, academically, uh, I can remember my ninth-grade year we all had to go to the, um, oh, let's see. So, academically, when I was in first grade, I took basically the second half of the year off because the teacher said, "You're ahead of the class so you just can go to the gym." I mean, I just goofed around in the gym, hung around in the office. So, academically, things were fairly easy for me too.

And then when I was in ninth grade, we all had to talk to the guidance counselor, one by one, each of us, for some reason, and when I had my turn, uh, the guy excused himself for a few minutes, probably to go to the bathroom or something, and what he had in front of him was a list of the whole class—there were about 300 in my graduating class—the whole class, listed by IQ. They were listed in order of IQ. And me and this other kid were—had the two highest IQs in our class. It was 140. Not genius IQ, but it was the two highest ones. I always thought this other kid was a lot smarter than me—better at math, anyway.

**[0:14:07]**

But so, uh, there were a lot of things that it seemed like things were fairly easy for me, but I had no ambition. I had—there wasn't anything that I wanted to do. I was kind of obsessive, uh, and did well at whatever I did, but I wasn't, uh, compelled to do things, compelled to—maybe it was because I had asthma or something, I got lethargic, in a way. So that was an interesting thing for me. I never knew what I wanted to do for a living, and I guess, to this day, I still don't.

Um, but what did—what was attractive to me, what all this leads to is the one thing that was a big deal for me is that once in a while, every month, uh, I don't know. I can't remember how often, but I would have these experiences that would happen at night and I thought those were special, even though they were always scary, they were never comforting or good, they

were always scary experiences. But they were—I would see things. I would see entities in the room, in my bedroom, or go out of body, and I would be always, uh, sort of taken through the air to my mom's house, who was, um, also a talented psychic in her own right, I believe. And then I'd go up the chimney, somehow, and then out, up into the heavens. So that would happen.

**[0:15:42]**

So I'd have these experiences, and they were always frightening to me. And if I would see something in the room I would call my mother, and being the person—type of person she was, she would see what I was—she would see what was in there and she would start screaming.

[Laughter.]

**[0:16:00]**

BRUCE FETZER: That wasn't much support, was it?

TOM BEAVER: It was no support. No comfort. In fact, she used to forbid me to bring, um, any kind of New Age book into the house, because it would cause her to leave her body. She would call it a seizure. It would cause her to have a seizure, just by looking at the cover of the book. So she wouldn't let me, uh, bring any—I mean, I wouldn't anyway, but she would forbid it.

So it was just a different—it was a different, uh—I was just always a different kind of kid. And—and—and my dad was a businessman so he—he was a doting—he was a doting father in his way, but not around that much because he would work until late at night.

BRUCE FETZER: Mm-hmm.

TOM BEAVER: You know, all the time. So—and with my mother, I would say I was more her emotional support than her mine.

BRUCE FETZER: Mm-hmm.

**[0:16:54]**

TOM BEAVER: So I always lived kind of an independent life, uh, as well. My dad used to say that, uh—well, my dad's parents left him in the middle of the Depression when he was 13,

so he used to say, when we were teenagers we were men, we were on our own, and he wasn't going to tell us what to do anymore.

BRUCE FETZER: Mm-hmm.

TOM BEAVER: And, um, and we were also in this, by then, in this hippie era, so what was a good thing for us. We loved the independence. My older brother and I, we loved it. But it was just this kind of unusual life. Neither of my parents encouraged me to, uh—my dad insisted we go to college, because he had fought in World War II as a—as a draftee and he wanted us to, uh, be sure we were officers in the next war—

BRUCE FETZER: Mm-hmm.

TOM BEAVER: —and not enlisted men. You know, that was his rationale, so we both had to go to college. But neither he nor my mom went to college. They never said, um, you know, "You would be good at this" or "You would be good at this" or "You would be good at this," except my mother had this pipe dream that we would be the next Rachmaninoff or Horowitz or something, which wasn't going to happen.

**[0:18:15]**

TOM BEAVER: So these—but these experiences had an impact on me. They were the most interesting thing in my life. They were the most intriguing thing of my life.

I can remember, um, uh, all of a sudden, when I hit puberty in seventh grade, uh, for the second semester of my second—of my seventh-grade year I could always—I always dreamt or lived the night before what was going to happen in school the next day.

BRUCE FETZER: Mm-hmm.

TOM BEAVER: That was really a great experience. It was a really—that wasn't scary. It was a huge advantage, to see who I was going to run into, how it was going to go. That—that was very cool, but it ended.

BRUCE FETZER: So you were learning now to integrate this, then.

**[0:19:05]**

TOM BEAVER: Well, it was just part of my normal experience. But I wouldn't consider myself, um, a clairvoyant, because things would just happen randomly, sporadically, not all the time, not in my control. They would just happen when they would happen. And, actually,

I've—you know, I've had a meditation practice for, uh, 45 years, and, really, for me, what that has done has increased the frequency of things happening, but they still happen randomly and sporadically, not—not—not as a, uh, linear type of thing at all. Just [overlapping speakers.]

**[0:19:44]**

BRUCE FETZER: So just touch on—briefly, just touch on the range of activities that you engaged in, in your spiritual practice. So you had these experiences that led you to—

TOM BEAVER: Right. So—

BRUCE FETZER: —non-traditional approaches.

TOM BEAVER: Right.

BRUCE FETZER: And the range of the approaches that you've tried?

**[0:20:00]**

TOM BEAVER: So by the time I was 12 or 13, uh, then this is the early '60s, so it's not like the days of the internet where you can—where you have everything at your fingertips, so, uh, the first thing I—I was raised as a Christian Scientist. My mother was a Christian Scientist, her mother was a Christian Scientist, and her aunt was a pretty prominent Christian Scientist in Grand Rapids. So I was never raised with an orthodox, uh, approach to religion, which was—I was always very grateful for, very happy about Christian Science as a pretty strict but, a non-dual approach to, um, spirituality. Heavily focused on, um, physical healing, which didn't do me much good with the asthma and allergies that I had, so I—that—I actually had to just sort of suffer through that, because there was never—to this day, I don't really know how to go to the doctor. It's sort of this big trauma—this big deal for me, because I don't know how to do it. So I have to figure out how to do it each time. Um, but overall, that was, uh, that was a positive thing for me.

**[0:21:12]**

But when I was an early teen, I would go to the newsstand downtown, in Grand Haven—Grand Haven, Michigan, a little beach town in central Michigan, about halfway up the state, on Lake Michigan. They had a newsstand downtown and I would go to this newsstand and, um, they would carry *FATE Magazine*, this magazine called *FATE Magazine*. And, uh, I would imagine it's not around anymore, but it just had general New Age articles, articles about

psychic phenomena, articles about out-of-body travel, articles about past life experiences, you know, just the general garden variety stuff. And in there they had an ad for what was called the Rosicrucian Order, AMORC, out of San Jose, California, and, uh, you were supposed to be 21, I think, to join it, but I—so I filled it out and said I was 21 and joined that, and then started getting, um, monographs in the mail. I think every two weeks there would be two that would come in the mail. So it was monographs, one a week, was the, um, premise of it. That was the first thing I started to do.

**[0:22:33]**

And I really liked it. It was—um, the Rosicrucian teachers were, um, they were really just all psychic development. There wasn't much philosophy involved with it. A lot of exercises in psychic development, which I can't say I was that—all that particularly good at, uh, really. But that practice, which I guess helped me increase my focus on the Gemini—so focusing is not like a natural thing for me. I'm more scattered line. I'm usually thinking of two other things in the background while I'm saying whatever I'm saying.

BRUCE FETZER: Right.

TOM BEAVER: So, uh, that was good for focus for me, and it did increase the intensity and, um, uh, the number of experiences that I would have. It did increase those. But it's not like I would do an experiment and it would work like magic. Not necessarily. In fact, my brother joined for a couple of years, too, and he had more success than I did, but didn't have the interest in it that I had.

So that was the first thing, I would say. Um, then—

**[0:23:44]**

BRUCE FETZER: So your study and practice just started to become integrated. It was beneficial for you then. How did you use that to go to the next level then? So what was after that?

**[0:23:53]**

TOM BEAVER: Uh, um, I was just following my nose. So I spent the rest of my life following my nose. That's what I've done. Uh, the one I've—the one thing that it taught me was that the things that would come in and impacted me were random and sporadic. So to pay



attention—and so when they would come to not dismiss them, to focus on them, to let it come in full blast. Even when I was a little kid, like I say, they were always kind of terrifying, but I never wanted them to go away. I always wished them to continue. I wished for the fear to go away, but I always wished for them to continue.

**[0:24:37]**

BRUCE FETZER: So you were led to the next step. So from Christian Science to Rosicrucian, what followed that and how were you led into that?

**[0:24:45]**

TOM BEAVER: Well, uh, when I—there was a also a psychic in Eastmanville that I found. Eastmanville is between—is west of Grand Rapids but maybe 10 miles west of Grand Rapids, sort of where the Grand River runs from Grand Rapids to Grand Haven, and Eastmanville is on the river. I would go see her once in a while. There was an article on her in the paper, I think, probably in the Sunday *Grand Rapids Press*.

And she was encouraging to me. She just thought I was this interesting kid, you know. I was driving by then so I was probably 16, 17. And she was very encouraging and just said, "You know, this is a life-long journey and just keep following your nose, and you'll be guided to where you're supposed to go," which I knew. I could see it and I also had a firm belief in it.

**[0:25:41]**

So the next big thing for me was when I got out of college. Uh, I went into engineering and I went to University of Michigan engineering school, and I picked, uh, engineering because I was the worst at math of any of my subjects and I—so I just figured I would challenge myself or that the other subjects would be too easy, or something. It was a stupid choice to make, a stupid reason to make the choice. I didn't know what to choose. I was getting no guidance from my parents. And really, I could do anything. It seemed like my abilities were sort of kind of any direction I wanted to go.

My brother became an engineer, so I just followed him in and became an engineer. He was an engineer until he retired, uh, a couple of years ago, and I—I was an engineer for two years out of college, because it wasn't for me. I didn't like it. But, uh, it was certainly, um, very difficult training, and good training, and I'd learned that I could, um, uh, accomplish something

really, really difficult. Uh, you know, I graduated 11th out of my engineer class of 1,100, so I was in the top 1 percent, and, uh, that was a pretty big deal.

**[0:27:00]**

So, uh, it was a recession when I got out of college, but—but, you know, there were a couple of us getting job offers, and I had several job offers, um, in aerospace engineering. But my—my decision process at that point was, uh, I'm going to go to the West Coast, because that's where the Rosicrucian headquarters are, in San Jose. Now, I didn't have any interviews on the West Coast. It was all East Coast stuff—Cape Canaveral, Connecticut. You know, University of Michigan wasn't getting recruiters from the West Coast. So I actually, somehow called, um, McDonnell Douglas myself, and sent them a resume, and they sent a recruiter to Michigan, and, um, gave me a really good offer. It was actually in, uh, um, management training, which would have been more interesting to me than, uh, engineering. But it was to work on, uh, the Minuteman missile, and at that time I was a hippie so I wouldn't do it. I turned it down.

And I somehow called, uh, Douglas Aircraft in Long Beach, and made the McDonnell Douglas's commercial planes—

BRUCE FETZER: Right.

TOM BEAVER: —and, uh, they hired me there. So I got hired there.

**[0:28:26]**

I went to Long Beach, California, and spent the next two years—that next big step, then, that next big time for me was the, uh, '73, '74, '75, when I was in California, out of college, and myself and my buddy, who was also as crazy in sort of the New Age metaphysical stuff as I was, we joined everything that we heard about. So we were going into L.A. from Long Beach. I lived in Long Beach and he was in Manhattan Beach, so we were in the South Bay. And we were driving up into L.A. every night, practically, to do some strange thing or another. It was a great time. Uh, I was a Martinist, Rosicrucian, of course, uh, Astara, uh, an organization called, uh, BOTA, which is a—studied the tarot, came out of the Paul Foster Case tradition. That was a wonderful training. The tarot, I still use that all the time, uh, just in how I perceive the world.

BRUCE FETZER: Mm-hmm.

**[0:29:35]**

TOM BEAVER: It was a great time. You know, it was a lot of fun. Uh, it was just a wild time. And—and, uh, one of the things that happened is my friend called me up. I can still remember, I was driving in my car and my friend called me up and said, "Hey, I just found this new thing that, um, it's a meditation practice, and you have to do a lot of meditation, but they guarantee that you only have, at the most, five more lifetimes on the physical plane. Five or less, guaranteed." I said, "Okay. Let's go. Let's join." I mean, we were just both like this.

BRUCE FETZER: Right.

TOM BEAVER: There's something kooky? Let's join it.

BRUCE FETZER: Right.

**[0:30:15]**

TOM BEAVER: So I went to this home where they were having a home sutsong [ph], they called it, a meeting, and—and on the coffee table was a picture of a guy that I'd been seeing, inwardly, since I was 4 years old. It was a shock to me because it was the same pose, everything.

So going back to when I was a little kid, one of the things I would see once in a while, and I don't remember how often it was, was three guys with towels on their heads, you know, turbans, walking around at the foot of my bed. And they wouldn't speak to me. They wouldn't even—did they look at me? Yeah, they looked at me. It was scary. They didn't speak. But that would happen, and this was one of those three guys. I was like, "Wow. That's next for me. I'm going to try this." You know, it was just that. I will try this.

**[0:31:23]**

And, um, at the time I was doing, um, Kriya Yoga. We had joined self-realization fellowship. That was one of the things me and my buddy joined. And they—through Kriya Yoga, doing the Kriya Yoga, I would—I mean, that worked for me. That was easy to do. It was kind of a breath control type of thing, and I liked it, and I would always—it would create visions for me. But I would see this other guy. I wouldn't see Yogananda. I would see this other guy, and it was this guy. That's who I would see.

So I jumped into that with both feet, and, um, it turned out to be an Indian, East Indian, Northern Indian, uh, practice called Surat Shabd Yoga, where shabd means sound and, uh, surat means the sight or light. So sitting and hearing. And, uh, this guru up in the Punjab, in Northern India, right at the Pakistani border. And, um, I got initiated as soon as I could. And you have to be a vegetarian, so there was this time period you had to prove you're a vegetarian and all that, and, uh—

BRUCE FETZER: And that would have been with Charan Singh.

TOM BEAVER: Yeah, Charan Singh. Yeah, so when—and, look. And when that happened, when that initiation happened—

BRUCE FETZER: Mm-hmm.

TOM BEAVER: —all the fears that I had about inward things, about psychic things, about whatever, they just all vanished.

**[0:33:04]**

BRUCE FETZER: So it felt like coming home.

TOM BEAVER: They all frittered. I had this experience where I saw the—Charan Singh, the teacher, and then he became what really my fears looked like. I didn't realize that they were all kind of personified. So it was my, uh, boogie man, you know.

BRUCE FETZER: Mm-hmm.

TOM BEAVER: And then I went through it, and they all just frittered away. And since that day—this had to have been in '75, '76—inwardly I don't have fear anymore.

**[0:33:41]**

BRUCE FETZER: So at 24 you were initiated and you've been practicing since, right?

TOM BEAVER: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

BRUCE FETZER: That's a fabulous story. So, uh—

TOM BEAVER: Now I didn't drop everything. I didn't just up and drop everything. They just dropped away one at a time, because I had fun with all this other stuff. But by, uh, say, five or six years later, that's all—that was the only practice I was doing.

**[0:34:06]**

BRUCE FETZER: And so what is your practice around this discipline then? How would you describe your practice?

TOM BEAVER: Uh, it's a, it's a mantra. You're given, uh, a mantra that's got five parts, five names. It teaches that there are five upper regions above the crown chakra. And, um, so there are five names that are repeated in a chant, a mantra, and, um, then if you are lucky or if you've seen the guru in person, you can visualize the guru. And then when you get good at it, when you get focused at it, what happens is you—the attention withdraws from the lower chakras.

BRUCE FETZER: Mm-hmm.

TOM BEAVER: So the chakras don't get energized. They get vacated. And so when you're right up at the—at the crown, actually, then if it works, you know, and you've gotten to the crown, then this big sound comes in, like a freight train, and just whooshes you out, like a rocket ship, you know.

**[0:35:22]**

BRUCE FETZER: So you travel outside. You ride the sound current.

TOM BEAVER: Yeah. Now, over the years, as it goes on, it changes some. At first you experience every little thing. It's like getting in the car the first time. You are conscious of every little thing that you do in there, and then after you do it for a while you just get in the car and you go. So—and the sounds get higher, get finer and finer as you go higher. They change. They become more beautiful and more, um, and finer in quality, you know. And then, finally, at the—at the fifth region, it's a bagpipe, which, when I heard that—which I used to hear as a little kid. You know, I would hear the bagpipe at night. I didn't know what the heck it was. So it was always there for me.

**[0:36:15]**

BRUCE FETZER: So this also fits with your classical training, too. As a musician, light and sound makes a lot of sense.

TOM BEAVER: Sure. Yeah.

BRUCE FETZER: It's just a natural fit for—

TOM BEAVER: Yeah.

BRUCE FETZER: —for your being, isn't it?

TOM BEAVER: Yeah. One of the high—one of the next highest sounds is a violin, so that violin sound.

BRUCE FETZER: Mm-hmm.

TOM BEAVER: And the percussion of the piano, that heavy—that very powerful sound of the piano is like the very first sound, that initial sound, that have the power to really take you out.

So I was, like you say, 24, and doing this, you know. So I had hippie friends at the time. I was still in grad school at Michigan. I had hippie friends that were also into different Eastern things. You know, Eastern things became the thing after the Beatles went to India.

BRUCE FETZER: Right.

TOM BEAVER: And they would say, uh, "This is way too hard, you know. Do these easy things," you know, where you go in front of the guru and he touches you on the forehead. Wickthenandar [ph] or—

BRUCE FETZER: Right.

**[0:37:18]**

TOM BEAVER: And you don't have to do anything. You know, he does it. He does it and produces the experience. But for me it was, um, it was just this different thing. And the practice is difficult. You have to do, um—you pledge to do ten percent of the day in meditation, so at least 2 1/2 hours is the minimum. But when I started doing it I wanted it to work, to work, to work, to work, and it wasn't easy for me to quiet this Gemini mind and get up there and get focused on it. So I was doing more and more and more, more hours a day.

And I had quit engineering and became a schoolteacher, so it was a lot of work, and I worked hard as a schoolteacher for 10 years. I loved it for 9 years. But I was single so I had the rest of the time to myself. So I would get up at midnight and meditate until six in the morning. That was sort of the thing I did for, I don't know—I don't know how many years I did that. Ten? Probably 10 years?

**[0:38:25]**

BRUCE FETZER: Well, that's an important part of the story because 10 years later, at age 34, you met Jim Gordon. And what were the circumstances in that meeting?

TOM BEAVER: Yeah. See, so then I met Jim. Well, there was a guy in Kalamazoo, Michigan, named Mike Wunderlin, who, uh, does the same practices, the same Surat Shabd practice I do, and Mike actually got initiated in Chicago, the same year, '75, when I got initiated in Los Angeles. We didn't know each other or anything. I came back into town a few years later, when my father was having heart problems, and just said, okay, I'm back in Michigan again.

BRUCE FETZER: Right.

TOM BEAVER: And I started going to Mike's house once a month. He had a monthly gathering there. And Mike had been a Coptic minister, uh, before he got initiated into Surat Shabd Yoga, and the Coptics were, uh, a New Age group out of Grand Rapids, but it went back to Hamid Bey who was an Egyptian guy that was best friends with Yogananda. They sort of started their things at the same time.

**[0:39:38]**

And what Hamid Bey started, he called the Coptics, although it wouldn't be—it wouldn't be orthodox Coptic religion, although he was. Hamid Bey, I believe, was raised a Coptic, in Egypt. But it, uh, became a more general New Age type of think, and after Hamid Bey died, the next leader of the Coptics was in Grand Rapids. His name is—you'd know the name.

BRUCE FETZER: John, um, uh, Spiritual Unity of Nations, John, um—

TOM BEAVER: Yeah, I can't think of it. It will—we'll think of it.

BRUCE FETZER: —John Davis.

**[0:40:18]**

TOM BEAVER: John Davis. Well, in the meantime, there was this little guy in San Antonio, Texas, who I'd never met or heard of or didn't know who he was. He was about my age, this little guy in San Antonio, working in a paint store. And he, um, his name is Jim Gordon, and this guy is a true clairvoyant. I mean, he's seeing dead people walking around, uh, and I've never had that type of thing at all. I have experiences in at night or in my meditation or get out of body, but, um, not, uh, psychic or clairvoyant. But Jim is.

And his story, as I've heard him tell it many times, is that one day he saw this dead guy walk in, and it was—and said to him, "Hi, my name is Hamid Bey." He was working in the paint store. "Hi, my name is Hamid Bey and I just passed over, and I told the successor to my organization, John Davis, that if I could get a message to him I would, and this is the message, these words. So I want you to go to Grand Rapids, Michigan, look up John Davis, and say these words to him."

**[0:41:35]**

So Jim did, somehow. He managed to do that, and, uh, he went up to Grand Rapids and delivered the message. And so the Coptics, uh, had, and may still have, but they had an annual convention. It always was a Albion College.

BRUCE FETZER: Albion College, yeah.

TOM BEAVER: So they would have Jim come up and speak at their annual convention. And when he would come up, he would stay at the, um, at the house of Mike Wunderlin.

BRUCE FETZER: Wunderlin, right.

TOM BEAVER: Mike would put him up. And then Mike got initiated into Sant Mat, and then I think that's probably how Jim found out about Sant Mat, uh, as well, and Surat Shabd Yoga. The Indian version is called Sant Mat, teachings of the saints. It's Sanskrit.

**[0:42:19]**

BRUCE FETZER: Right. And you would distribute *The Path of the Masters*, is the text, right?

TOM BEAVER: Mike would, which was one of the books, uh, written by a Westerner about Shabd Yoga. And, uh, Mike gave a copy to John. You know, there's a copy in the library.

BRUCE FETZER: And myself, exactly. So the story of meeting Jim, then, was through Mike Wunderlin.

TOM BEAVER: Yeah, no, absolutely. So Mike—I would go to this monthly thing at Mike's and he would say, "You've got to meet Jim Gordon. You've got to meet this guy named Jim Gordon."

BRUCE FETZER: Right.



TOM BEAVER: "He's that—an initiate of this path, but he kind of wishes he was, or he's very copacetic with it. He understands the path. He will be someday, in some regard, you know, whatever. He's one of us," however he put that. And, uh, "He's a great guy, everybody loves Jim. You've got to meet the guy." So I said, "Okay. You know, the next time he comes up." So Jim would come up to speak at the Coptic convention—I think it was in August—and then, um, you know, Jim came up and I met him, and we became like brothers, just overnight, really, practically. So we just became real tight, real fast, right away.

[0:43:36]

BRUCE FETZER: So the next year, Jim introduces you to John Fetzer.

TOM BEAVER: Right.

BRUCE FETZER: What are the circumstances behind that?

TOM BEAVER: Uh, yeah. So this would have been '84. Then the next summer of '84, and, uh, is there anything else to that, Jim coming up and speaking at the Coptics? Well, yes, there's another piece, which is Mike Wunderlin's lawyer is a guy down the road, west of Vicksburg, named Mike Gergely. And Mike Wunderlin goes in to see Mike Gergely and goes, "Look at this stuff," and this guy named Jim Gordon—Jim Gordon gave Mike Wunderlin some materials that had been channeled, and Mike Wunderlin is a talkative, social, very outgoing, friendly guy. He took him—he's a businessman so he probably went to see Mike Gergely for business reasons, and he said, "Look at this stuff, you know, I got from this guy named Jim Gordon." And here—here's the cover of the thing. It's this Star of David with a staff and wings on it and a serpent. And, well, we can show a picture. We'll put a picture of this thing up.

[0:44:53]

And, uh, and Mike Wunderlin said, "You know, here. I'll make a copy of it. Here, you can have a copy of it." So Mike Gergely, then, is going to John—going to see John regularly in those days because he was, uh, he was the very start of the Monday night group, sort of the one-man Monday night group with John at the time. And so the next time we went over to John's place, Mike Gergely said, "Look at this. You know, look at this goofy thing," and John goes, "Oh." You know, somehow John—John—according to Mike Gergely, John said, "I've been

waiting for that to show up all my life," you know, or something—words to that effect. So then John connected with Jim Gordon, very strongly.

And then, uh, a few years later, you know, I hooked up with Jim, in '85, and Jim would always stay in Kalamazoo a month when he came up. He's stay up—come up the month of August. John would put him in a little condo by the airport over there.

**[0:46:02]**

So, uh, after I met John at Mike Wunderlin's house, you know, two days later I was driving to Kalamazoo to see Jim. And we spent the day together, and, uh, it was a great day, and then that night, when I came home my head hit the pillow and, kaboom, it was just the biggest experience I'd ever had in my life, and it lasted most of the night. Just kept going and going and going. It was wonderful, and it wasn't scary. You know, it was just wonderful. It was like, um, a breakthrough, you know, kind of a breakthrough, and it had to do with my meditation practice. So it was just a lot more power added to the meditation practice.

So, two days later I'm back in the car to Kalamazoo to see Jim again. We spent the whole day together, again. Had a great time. I drove home and said, well, let's see if it happens again. I put my head on the pillow and, boom, it happened again, a second time.

Well, as we both know, Bruce, by this time, that Jim can kind of trigger things if he—if Jim wants to make an impact on you, if he wants to impress you, if he wants to make a point with you, he has the ability to do that.

BRUCE FETZER: Right.

**[0:47:15]**

TOM BEAVER: So he just wanted—Jim wanted to get my attention, so he certainly did. And then, um, I still—I had been teaching school for eight years and I, as I say, just really had no ambition, so at the end—around Christmas of '85, Jim and I would talk on the phone, I don't know, maybe once a week or something, and I said, "You know, I'm going to retire in June from teaching. I'm going to quit. I've saved some money, and I'm just going to live frugally and meditate." And I told Jim this.

So then around February—no, April or something, Jim called me up and said, "Well, you know, here's an interesting thing to consider. Would you move in with this guy named John Fetzer? Would you move in with him?"

BRUCE FETZER: Mm-hmm.

TOM BEAVER: So that, you know, changed everything. That changed everything, because I said, "Hell, yes, I will move in with John Fetzer." I knew who John Fetzer was. And I didn't care that he was a rich guy at all. That wasn't it. Uh, my family had plenty of money. We always lived, uh, very well. We had an upper middle class living. But, um, in Grand Haven—Grand Haven is sort of directly west of Kalamazoo on the coast and then about an hour north, an hour up, Grand Haven. Ottawa County is the, uh, the center of the Dutch Reform Movement in southwest Michigan, which goes over to Grand Rapids, touches down in Kalamazoo a little, but it's really Ottawa County on the coast where I—Grand Haven, where I grew up, in Ottawa County. In Ottawa County, everybody said—the whisperings were that John Fetzer was a devil worshiper.

BRUCE FETZER: Mm-hmm.

**[0:49:17]**

TOM BEAVER: Well, John had—uh, when I was a little kid there were two TV stations. One was NBC in Grand Rapids and the other was CBS in Kalamazoo, John's station. They were the only two channels, so everybody had his channel. And we could get, uh, WKZO radio too. There was a Muskegon, Michigan, station that carried the Tigers that was a lot better broadcast but not for night games. At night the station had to power down. So at night we would listen to KZO. So we would listen to the Tiger games on KZO.

And so, uh, I just thought, okay, they're calling this guy a devil worshiper? Uh, I'm in.

**[0:50:07]**

BRUCE FETZER: You weren't detracted at all. So tell me the circumstances. John was very discriminating about who he would get close to.

TOM BEAVER: He was shocked when I told him that. He was shocked. He was just shocked.

BRUCE FETZER: So—

TOM BEAVER: He was sure he had kept it a deep, deep secret.

BRUCE FETZER: So—

TOM BEAVER: Because all it meant was that he wasn't an orthodox Christian, that he was into metaphysics. That's what it meant to me.

BRUCE FETZER: Right.

TOM BEAVER: Because, in Grand Haven, Christian Scientists were called devil worshipers too. We were called devil worshipers as well.

**[0:50:39]**

BRUCE FETZER: So talk about your meeting—

TOM BEAVER: Okay. This guy is a kindred spirit.

**[0:50:42]**

BRUCE FETZER: So John, obviously, had to screen you, and probably talked to you and had Carolyn or other people talk to you.

TOM BEAVER: Yes.

BRUCE FETZER: How did that go? How was that different?

TOM BEAVER: Yeah. Yeah. So John had, um, John had, uh—there had been a big ice storm in Kalamazoo, and John's wife, Rhea, who was, uh—had Alzheimer's perhaps, some form of dementia, and she was under 24-hour nursing care at home.

BRUCE FETZER: Right.

TOM BEAVER: In this ice storm they lost power for like three weeks in Kalamazoo and she had to go into a nursing home.

BRUCE FETZER: Right.

TOM BEAVER: So John was rattling around in his house by himself, and the guy's 84, 85 years old.

**[0:51:27]**

BRUCE FETZER: Yeah. That would have been between Christmas and New Year's in 1985 when this ice storm hit. Right.

TOM BEAVER: Yeah. So I had met John, uh, the summer of '85, at Clara Daly's [ph] house. Clara Daly was a buddy of Jim Gordon's and her husband, Chuck Spence, had been in

the Monday night group, and she had a party at her house and, uh, you know, Jim went, because she and Jim had become buddies. Uh, Jim had found MSIA, this American version of Surat Shabd Yoga, and Collura [ph] and Jim found it together, because it happened in, um, Egypt, actually. They were on a trip to Egypt and they ran into John-Roger in Egypt, and both had these big, um, spiritual experiences. So they got into MSIA.

**[0:52:20]**

So Clara had this party at her house and they invited John. Now, had he been initiated into MSIA at that point? Probably, but I—you know, I was unaware of it, if he had been, because he was initiated in '85, into MSIA.

BRUCE FETZER: I think it was '86, spring of '86.

TOM BEAVER: That could be.

So John had no recollection of meeting me at this party, so there wasn't any big thing. It was just, "Here's John Fetzer." I met him. He was a nice, very old man, very simply dressed. You would think he was the caretaker of the place. I mean, you know, just no—no—no fancy appearance, low key, just another person there.

BRUCE FETZER: Right.

TOM BEAVER: He didn't remember me. But then when Jim said, "Would you move in with this guy?" I was like, "Yeah, sure." That sounds more fun than retiring. That's the one thing that I would prefer to do rather than retiring, because this would be really interesting to move in with this prominent guy, who is into the same stuff, evidently, that I am. So, yeah, I'll do it.

**[0:53:31]**

So Jim, you know, started trying to convince John to do this, and so this would have been spring of '86. And, uh, John wanted nothing to do with it. John is a very private man, as you know, or was, a very private man. He's a personality but very private man, and he learned to be private in Kalamazoo, in, um, Dutch Reform territory, with his beliefs. And he's in the radio and TV business so he's depending on advertising, so he learned to be very quiet about it.

Uh, now as owner of the Tigers, he had put them through TM, if they wanted to, in '75. So he had this brief moment in '75 when he was doing TM. This is before I met him or anything.

BRUCE FETZER: Right.

TOM BEAVER: But I remember reading that in the papers, that, um, you know, some of the Tigers took to him. They were a terrible team. They were like the worst team in baseball, so he was helping them.

**[0:54:34]**

BRUCE FETZER: Talk specifically about the interview with John Fetzer and Carolyn.

TOM BEAVER: Yeah. First I interviewed with Carolyn Daily, his secretary. She was very nice. You know, Carolyn is a friend of the state. She was a member of the Monday night group, which I didn't know at the time, of course, but I knew she was his secretary. That's what I knew. She was very nice. She and I got along right away. It all was fine. And but John just wanted nothing to do with it. So then Carolyn interviewed me a second time, and it went very well, and I'm sure Jim was working on John to at least give it a shot.

So finally, in, uh, you know, this is after maybe three months, maybe March, April, May, after interviewing with Carolyn a couple of times, uh, John had me over and I had an interview with him, and nothing happened. I just got up and left. It was fine. The interview was fine. I told him my life story and whatever. Nothing happened. But nothing happened.

And then, uh, a couple of weeks later he had me back again for—to his house, and what he said was, "Well, I guess I might as well show you your room." That's what he said. It wasn't like, "Welcome to the whatever," you know. He was like—it was like we wore him down. Carolyn and Jim wore him down.

BRUCE FETZER: Mm-hmm.

**[0:56:13]**

TOM BEAVER: And, uh, he had a little servant's quarters, a mini one, a room, really, above the garage, a nice place. Not above the garage. Above the laundry room on the other side of the house, in the garage. Very nice little room. Wood floors and everything. Very nice. So I moved into there. And—and what I realized later, then, is that soon afterwards he decided he was going to test me to see if I'd be any good to him. I think that's what it was.

Because what happened was, soon after that, uh, he said to me, you know, within just a few days of being there, he said to me, "Well, somebody's coming over today, a man. When he

knocks on the door let him in and send him upstairs to my den. And then I want you to go into your room and meditate while he's here. And then when he leaves come out and tell me what you got."

**[0:57:20]**

So, in retrospect, I think it was years later that I realized that it was a test. I mean, at the time it was like, oh, gosh, I'm meditating six hours a day. I can sit down at meditation and see stuff on the movie screen in front of me. No problem. I can do that. It happens all the time. It's not a big deal for me. That I can do, because I've just done it. You know, I've put in so much time in it.

So this thing flashed up in front of me and it was of a, uh, a Greek or Roman guy on a chariot, who came up to—over the sand on his chariot to this Egyptian pharaoh, who was standing there, and the Greek or Roman guy speared him with a spear, through the heart or through the chest or whatever. That was the experience.

BRUCE FETZER: Mm-hmm.

TOM BEAVER: So, uh, I, um—we can—I can find it and we can play it, read a little quote about it. Um, but, uh, so the guys was there and he left, and John said—he called me down and said, "Okay, what have you got?" And I said, well, and I explained it, and he goes, "That's exactly right." He goes, "That's exactly right."

**[0:58:49]**

BRUCE FETZER: Right. So John was actually into having late readings with Jim Gordon at that time, because John was very interested in learning what the past life experiences and relationships were. So—

TOM BEAVER: Well, the other people that were working for him.

BRUCE FETZER: Exactly. So he would always—

TOM BEAVER: Which I didn't know. I didn't know any of that.

BRUCE FETZER: Right. So one of his ways of getting comfortable with people was to go into a late reading with Jim, find out, uh, what they were in past lives, and it just so happened that in this one circumstance that the person he was meeting with had had a past life with John, under adverse circumstances. So just briefly explain that, and, of course, we can, um—

you know, we've got a time limitation here. Let's not get into the long story, but the long story short was that it happened to be someone who worked for him, right?

TOM BEAVER: Yeah. I'll see if I can pull that up here fast, because they can always break the camera. And we're getting close to being done with this session. I don't think we'll be—

**[0:59:50]**

BRUCE FETZER: Well, we were supposed to get through the first three, and we're just finishing the first one.

TOM BEAVER: Okay. Here we go.

BRUCE FETZER: So we're way, way behind.

TOM BEAVER: Yeah, but the next part will go fast. Okay. Here's an interview that Jim—



Transcript of Audio File "TB 11\_30 Program 1b"

**[0:02:12]**

BRUCE FETZER: So this is an interesting story because what John was really trying to do is he was trying to verify information he got from Jim Gordon. He would have these light readings about past lives of people that worked with him, and he was just, I think, seeking some kind of confirmation about either your veracity or accuracy or confirmation about what Jim was doing. But how did the story actually turn out?

TOM BEAVER: Yeah.

BRUCE FETZER: So this is important information to John.

**[0:02:45]**

TOM BEAVER: As it turned out, you know, and again, I've been in the house for two or three days so I'm not aware of any of this and don't know who this guy is, and, um, don't know that Jim's—John's been doing, uh, light readings with Jim, or just don't know much of anything at that point.

BRUCE FETZER: Right.

TOM BEAVER: So—and I don't consider myself a psychic. So if you say to me, you know, what's this guy's past lives, I don't know.

BRUCE FETZER: Right.

TOM BEAVER: But, um, because I'd been doing a lot of—so much meditation for, I don't know, five, six, seven years at that point, I could move my attention up and I could see a movie screen. I mean, I could do that any time I wanted to, uh, in meditation. I mean, not just walking around, but, uh—.

So that part I knew I could do, and I didn't know that what came up would have any veracity to John or anybody else, but it was this interesting scene that came up. I mean, it kind of surprised me too.

**[0:03:45]**

So here's an interview John did. I mean, here's an interview Jim Gordon did around 1983, with Kay Everett, or Kay Collins, who was working on the staff at the Fetzer Institute at the time, and they were thinking about maybe doing a book on Jim or something.

BRUCE FETZER: Right.

TOM BEAVER: So she did some interviews with Jim. And Jim said, as part of one of the interviews, he was talking about different past lives of John, in this part of the interview, and Jim said, "John was a pharaoh of Egypt named Ra, when I was Aristotle." That's what Jim said. "See, I was the teacher to Alexander the Great, and Alexander the Great is the one who came in and fought with the pharaoh of Egypt, killed him, and took over, and John, at that time, was the pharaoh."

Then Kay says, "I asked you if you knew Alexander the Great and you said you didn't think so." Jim Gordon says, "Well, I think it may have been Chuck Spence." And the guy that came to the door and went upstairs was Chuck Spence. It was that guy, who was the second-in-charge at the foundation at the time. I mean, John was the first-in-charge, and then Lloyd Springer [ph] was second-in-charge, and Chuck was third, but Chuck was one of the top two managers. I didn't know who this guy was.

**[0:05:08]**

So I think that, uh, very quickly, then—the upshot is John just got comfortable. I'm sure he wanted Jim to move in with him, but Jim wasn't going to do that. Jim always has kept his independence, uh, always considered John, uh, while he was alive, probably his number one client, but not his only client. You know, so Jim didn't wed into the thing like, um, like people think, maybe, um, ever, and we'll see more of that. But, you know, for John it's like, okay, this guy—Jim said this guy is whatever and, you know, and here he's delivered.

So John would, um, he would not involve me with, um, the Foundation, and I didn't want to be. I wasn't a Foundation employee, except I was on the Foundation payroll, getting paid by the Foundation. But I was his, uh, personal assistant. So he wouldn't bring me to work much. Uh, I was there for, um, almost five years. The middle two years, he was fairly healthy. He had—was recovering from a heart attack the first year and a half, and the next two years or

so he was fairly healthy, and the Institute building had been completed in '87, so he would go in. In '87 and '88, he would go in in the afternoon.

**[0:06:40]**

He wouldn't generally bring me along. He didn't want to be seen as having—being feeble and having to have an assistant around. And as you know, he kept his life pretty separated, so he tended to keep people in boxes and separated from each other. It helped him keep and stay in control. So I didn't go in much to the Institute. But then the last year and a half he got sick again and we were there 24/7.

But what he would do is say, "What do you think of this guy?" I mean, he would always do that. "What do you think of this guy?" "What do you think of this?" "What do you think of this guy?" He would ask me my impressions about board politics, about the management, about—not about what to do but about the people. He would say, "What do you think of these guys?" "What do you think of this guy?"

And I'd go—I mean, I've always been a very intuitive person and one of the byproducts of a lot of hours of meditation is your intuition just gets better and better. It becomes more and more prominent. It speaks to you louder and louder, stronger and stronger. And what I learned is that if I pay attention to it, it just—it's a—like a reinforcement feedback loop, and so the subconscious goes, okay, he's listening to us. We'll give him more, you know. So, um, so, yeah.

**[0:08:12]**

I mean, I'm one of the people that probably got a few people fired around there, but it was always for good reason. Plus John had—John's—not you or Caroline but there were people at the Institute at the time, including Chuck and Lloyd, who thought John's on his last years, so—and so if we play our cards right, we can sort of ease him off to the side, and—and when he's gone, hey, this is ours to run. And so, actually, Chuck, at one point, said to me, "We have to kind of keep—uh, we have to be careful of what information we give to John," and I just—I went to John with that right away. I said, "I told you you can't trust this guy. This is what he just said to me." So he didn't fire Chuck because of me, but I'm sure he was getting it from

other people as well, and, um, and Chuck, uh, you know, ended up, uh, on his butt, and out of the door.

**[0:09:15]**

So it was good. And what we did—so here's our day. Here's John's and my day. At breakfast he would always talk about his dreams and his meditation practice, and this—I moved in in June of '86. John had been initiated for a few months into MSIA, the American version of Sant Mat, but we were doing exactly the same meditation practice, identical. Uh, John-Roger actually had two of the names out of order, but I don't think that made any difference. We were doing the same practice. Jim put them back in order when he—Jim started initiating, because I told Jim "two of them are out of order" so he switched them.

But, so, in the morning he would tell me about his dreams and his meditation practice, and what he had gotten in meditation. That was the standard thing. And he started out by saying, "Oh, I can't meditate. I don't get anything in meditation," which is sort of a typical American male thing, approach towards meditation, towards anything inward, towards intuition. Men tend to say—at least Midwestern, small-town men, which John was, and so was my dad—you know, "this stuff is not for men. You know, it's not manly. It's not manly to be an intuitive, or to talk about your dreams or your meditations or your intuition. No. No."

**[0:10:46]**

BRUCE FETZER: Well, John actually had very high expectations of himself, and so, you know, he was driven—as he was getting into this stuff, he was driven towards, you know, success with some of the more adepts that he worked with.

TOM BEAVER: Yeah.

BRUCE FETZER: And so that led to some of his doubt, but he had extremely well-refined intuition.

TOM BEAVER: Yes, which I learned really more in retrospect.

BRUCE FETZER: So he already had it inside. It's just that it was not as conscious and present and on-command for him.

TOM BEAVER: Which I learned over the five years I was with him, and learned a lot more about, then, in my research the last five or six years now. But at the time, he would just

say, you know, "I've got nothing. I've got nothing." And I'd say, "John, come on. Give me one thing. Tell me one thing."

BRUCE FETZER: And that was my experience too.

TOM BEAVER: One thing.

BRUCE FETZER: He was very conversational—

TOM BEAVER: Yeah.

BRUCE FETZER: —and it starts to open up, and then flows from there, and you lead to questions like, "Well, what does this mean to you?" And he'd say, "I don't know." And you say, "Well, have you had this experience before?" "Yeah, I had it this." "And what did you feel then?" Then, all of a sudden, you'd put the pieces together.

TOM BEAVER: Yeah, exactly. Exactly.

So over time, gradually, he stopped thinking. He got out of this mode of thinking "I have to hire the best psychic in town because I can't do it myself."

BRUCE FETZER: Right.

**[0:12:09]**

TOM BEAVER: "I don't have the ability. So I've got to go to a psychic or a clairvoyant or a channeler or a medium, because I know there's—I know this part is there," for him. And he had a couple of experiences as a kid. We'll go into it, um, tomorrow, probably. But he had a bedrock firm feeling that there was a spiritual world that was active, not in an after-you-die thing but an active, ongoing, right now spiritual world, that you can journey into, you could communicate with, all that. He had a rock-solid feeling for that, as did I. I mean, I'd had these experiences all my life.

But he had to have it coaxed out of him, as I think is typical for men, because I've seen this in my path, that he did have something happen last night. He just—his subconscious is just going, okay, dismiss it. Dismiss it. It's not important. Dismiss it. Don't talk about it because you'll just be made fun of. It's not what men do. And he had to start giving himself permission to go ahead and report, go ahead and report.

**[0:13:25]**

BRUCE FETZER: He worked extremely hard at it, though. He meditated over two hours a day. He got up during the night and read. He kept a dream diary.

TOM BEAVER: He was dedicated.

BRUCE FETZER: Uh, and the conversations with you, I'm sure, had to be similar to me, uh, where he wanted to share and process and have, you know, kind of a partner in the spiritual path.

TOM BEAVER: Yeah. Exactly. And Jim was encouraging him to do that.

BRUCE FETZER: Right.

TOM BEAVER: He kept a dream diary because Jim encouraged it. So Jim was encouraging him in these ways.

BRUCE FETZER: Right.

**[0:13:58]**

TOM BEAVER: Uh, you know, we'll get into this more later, but Jim was the first psychic he ever had who didn't go, "Okay, you know, I can give you some really good information. What's in it for me?" Where Jim was more interested in John developing his own abilities. So that was a switch at the time. And I was in there to encourage that. That—my day job was to encourage John to open up to his meditation practice. That was my job description.

BRUCE FETZER: Right.

TOM BEAVER: And—and, you know, it was cool. It was fun. It was good to do. By the end, I mean, after his two healthy years, and the last two years, year and a half, last two years, when he was going downhill again, and he was home all the time, and we were in the house, he would get out these tapes that Jim had made with him, uh, certain ones that he wanted me to hear and play some of the tapes, having to do with past lives of the new management that was coming in. Or he would—we would do these little games, because John knew he had—John knew that psychic stuff happened around him. He knew that.

BRUCE FETZER: Right.

**[0:15:11]**

TOM BEAVER: I mean, you know, even Mike Gergely talks about that. The TV sets that you would unplug and they would still—there would still be white noise on the screen, even

after you unplugged the set. Or the cracking of the windows. It would sound like the windows were breaking. You know, that happened all the time.

**[0:15:30]**

BRUCE FETZER: And that was a standing question in the Monday night group: what coincidences happened this last week? That led to the realization that we're no coincidences and that everything is interconnected.

TOM BEAVER: Yeah.

BRUCE FETZER: But that's exactly the way it would be, is that, you know, he would process things and bring his subconscious into his conscious mind, and that's the way that he integrated this stuff.

Well, this sounds like a very good time to—

**[0:15:52]**

TOM BEAVER: Well, let me tell one more story, then, and then we can end this part.

BRUCE FETZER: Okay.

TOM BEAVER: One of the things he would enjoy doing, in this last year and a half, is he would say, "Go to the bookshelves and just pick out a book." And he had all the Alice Bailey collection, and he had a pretty large collection of, um, materials. So I would just—because John loved this idea that came from *A Course of Miracles*, too, you just open the book and whatever you look at, that's what you're supposed to see, for that day, for that time. The message to you—open the book anywhere and that's the message to you.

BRUCE FETZER: Right.

TOM BEAVER: So he'd say, "Go pull up a book—out a book." And I would just happen, more than once, several times, that I would pull out a book, open it at random, read a passage, and John would say, "Just a minute." And he'd open his drawer and pull out the last tape that Jim Gordon had made for him, and there was Jim quoting those words, and not reading it as a passage out of the book. It would be Jim giving them originally, as channeled material, and it would match, word-for-word, the paragraph that I'd just read out of the book to John. That happened all the time.

**[0:17:15]**

BRUCE FETZER: And that's amazing. And, of course, John, you know, used that as confirmation. That was one of his ways of knowing.

TOM BEAVER: Yeah. So he knew—he knew that there were psychic things going on, and he learned, gradually—by the end, by the time we moved to Hawaii the last three months of his life, he was having meditation experiences, just like you would expect, just like you would hope. You know, his meditation was going for him, and it was hard for him because his health was declining, but he was doing a good job at it.

BRUCE FETZER: And that's fantastic. So you did your job well, and that sounds like a good way to conclude this session, before we move on. But, um, thank you, Tom, for talking about, you know, the typical day with John.

TOM BEAVER: You're welcome.